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Biodiversity and Human Impacts

Concept maps are graphical tools for organizing and representing knowledge. They include concepts, usually enclosed in circles or boxes of some type, and relationships between concepts indicated by a connecting line linking two concepts. Words on the line, referred to as linking words or linking phrases, specify the relationship between the two concepts. Most concept maps represent a hierarchical structure, with the overall, broad concept first with connected sub-topics, more specific concepts, following.

In your groups, you will create a concept map showing the relationships between human activities and their effects on ecosystems and biodiversity. Answer the following and then use this worksheet as a guide to creating your concept map.

Define biodiversity in your own words?

Why is biodiversity important to the ecosystem and to humans?

Brainstorm several ways humans impact the ecosystem:

Use the following impacts to create your concept map:

**Habitat Destruction**:

What is habitat destruction? List several different ways habitats are destroyed or altered:

What effect does it have on the ecosystem and biodiversity?

How can the effects of habitat destruction on ecosystems and biodiversity directly affect humans?

List some ways we can reduce the destruction of habitats:

**Pollution:**

What is pollution?

What are some major sources of pollution?

How does it affect ecosystems and biodiversity?

How can the effects of pollution on ecosystems and biodiversity directly affect humans?

List some ways we can reduce the amount of pollutants released into the ecosystem:

**Overexploitation of Natural Resources:**

What are some natural resources that humans overexploit?

How does overexploitation affect biodiversity and ecosystems?

How can overexploitations of natural resources directly affect humans?

List several ways we can reduce our use of natural resources:

Introduction of Invasive Species:

What are invasive species?

How are invasive species introduced into ecosystems?

How do invasive species impact biodiversity and the ecosystem?

How can invasive species impact humans?

What can be done to reduce the impacts of invasive species? How can we control their introduction?

Climate Change:

What is climate change?

What are the major causes of climate change?

What effects does climate change have on biodiversity and the ecosystem?

How do these effects impact humans?

How can we reduce the causes of climate change in the future?